



**SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
UNDER THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**Briefly about the Science Development Foundation
under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Ilham Aliyev in 21 October 2009 has signed a Order # 526 on the establishment of the Science Development Foundation (hereinafter: Foundation) under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Foundation is aimed in stimulation of scientific researches in Azerbaijan, strengthening of exploration of the country's natural resources, cultural and historical heritage, increasing effectiveness of researches in various spheres of science, representing of Azerbaijani science worthily among the world scientific community.

According to the following Presidential Order, Mr. Elchin Babayev was appointed as an Executive Director of the Foundation.

Charter of the Foundation was discussed in several relevant ministries and final version has been prepared and approved by the Presidential Decree. It should be noted that regional and international experience in science development, regulations of different science foundations were taken into account in Charter of the newly established Foundation.

Foundation intends not to be confined only in certain types of scientific researches, and in contrary, aims in support of all branches of scientific investigations - fundamental, applied as well as innovative-search ones. Small, medium and big grants are foreseen for short-term and long-term research projects. Foundation will mainly be financed by the Government but other donations either from domestic governmental and non-governmental or foreign similar sources are highly welcomed. Azerbaijani scientists now will be able not only to conduct scientific investigations on the base of domestic grant, but also, to invite foreign counterparts to conduct joint researches in all fields of science. It absolutely changes the situation when Azerbaijani scientists were obliged always to ask foreign grants and often get refuses due to objective and subjective reasons such as submitting proposals dealing with scientific problems peculiar only to the region or non-EU citizenship, weapon scientist's category, so on.



Ataturk avenue, 48B, AZ-1069, Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan

Tel.: 012-563-61-11, e-mail: qrant@elmfondu.az



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There are foreseen financing of special programs such as renovation of material-technical base of scientific researches and experiments; support of organizing of conferences and symposiums in Azerbaijan; short-term trainings, travel and participation at conferences abroad; publication of very important books, monographs, atlases, maps; organization of expedition and field works; support of popularization of science and so on. Scientific institutions can rely on, through pilot projects with big amount of financing, significant modernization of their scientific equipment and devises, handling necessary scientific literature and other information sources. Targeted projects are foreseen for deep study of material and non-material cultural heritage of country.

Any scientist or creative person from Azerbaijan, non-depending his/her age, scientific degree and title, administrative status, area of science, so on, can apply for a grant.

All grants and special program applications will pass through serious referee and review procedure. Temporary and permanent expert groups to be formed under the Foundation can consist of domestic and foreign specialists on a paid base.

Bilateral and multilateral grants will be one of priorities of the Foundation. For domestic, regional and international joint projects each participating side will pay its own expenses.

It should be noted that President of the Republic of Azerbaijan His Excellency Ilham Aliyev always pays a special attention to the problems of science and education. During fourth visit UNESCO's Director-General Mr. K.Matsuura to the Republic of Azerbaijan at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva, official talks took place between President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO's Director-General in Baku on 19 March 2009, and there was achieved bilateral agreement to increase efforts in development of science alongside cultural and educational affairs. Mr. Matsuura has offered UNESCO's assistance in reviewing the country's science and technology strategy and preparing recommendations. Later on, UNESCO's high level experts on science visited Azerbaijan and prepared analysis and recommendations where they have mentioned the establishment of Foundation as one of important steps.

Foundation started its grant activities since 1 July 2010 and first calls for grant were announced.

